

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-18 are currently pending. In light of the amendments and following remarks, Applicant believes all claims are in condition for allowance.

The § 112, Second Paragraph, Rejection of Claims 14-18

Claims 14-18 were rejected under 35 USC § 112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite. More specifically, the Office Action stated that it was unclear to what the letters "R, M, S, B, and E" referred. Applicant has amended claim 14 to more clearly indicate what the letters mean as indicated by the specification (see, e.g., page 20, line 16 to page 21, line 28). Accordingly, the rejection is overcome.

The Drawings

The Office Action indicated that some of the informal drawings that were submitted did not have the correct margins, etc. Applicant submits new informal drawings and believes these conform to the rules. No new matter has been added.

The § 102(e) Rejection of Claim 1-18

Claims 1-18 were rejected under 35 USC § 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,208,345, issued March 27, 2001 to Sheard et al. (hereinafter "Sheard"). Accordingly, it is asserted that Sheard discloses all the features of the pending claims. For the following reasons, Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

Sheard describes a system architecture that allows dissimilar applications to communicate. FIG. 1 illustrates a visual architecture where dissimilar applications (#1-#4) communicate with each other through adaptaters (34a-34c) and a data exchange infrastructure (32). The adapters reformulate technology-specific data to technology-independent data (col. 8, lines 22-24). Dissimilar applications can be those applications that differ in terms of technology, operation, supporting platforms and operating systems, data, input/output interfaces, communications protocols, and the like (see, e.g., col. 6, lines 53-57).

Sheard does not disclose providing a graphical user interface as claimed. For example, claim 1 recites as follows:

providing a graphical user interface (GUI) for linking desired ones of said Business Classes to generate relationships existing between said one or more Business Classes;

As shown in numerous figures of the application, the invention provides a graphical user interface for linking Business Classes to generate relationships between them.

As described in the specification (see, e.g., page 12, lines 20-31), a Business Class is a template that defines the generic definition of a Business Object. A Business Object is an instance of the Business Class.

The Office Action first cites col. 3., line 45 to col. 4, line 4 of Shread. A closer inspection of this section shows that it relates to specifying communication between applications and not Business Classes as claimed (see, e.g., col. 3, lines 51-59). Shread discusses that adapters are utilized to convert data between the applications and the data exchange infrastructure (see also Fig. 1). The applications in Shread are not the claimed Business Classes so Shread does not disclose the features provided by the graphical user interface as claimed.

The Office Action also cites col. 30, lines 27-47 of Shread. This section describes how attribute values can be mapped from one object to another. No graphical user interface is discussed and in fact, col. 30, lines 40-47 disclose that the mapping be done in a text file map. Thus, this section does not disclose the features provided by the graphical user interface as claimed.

Even if one argues that the applications in Shread are Business Classes, Shread does not disclose storing Business Classes as well as relationships as claimed. For example, claim 1 recites the following:

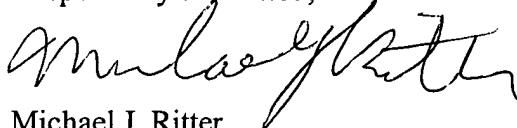
storing in a digital electronic format said one or more Business Classes as well as the relationships existing between said one or more Business Classes; and

(emphasis supplied). Shread does not disclose storing an application in digital electronic format because one can assume the application is already in digital format in order to execute. Thus, Shread does not teach storing the relationships between the Business Classes as well as the relationships between them. Accordingly, Shread does not support a prima case of anticipation.

Conclusion

For the foregoing reasons, Applicant believes all the pending claims are in condition for allowance and should be passed to issue. If the Examiner feels that a telephone conference would in any way expedite the prosecution of the application, please do not hesitate to call the undersigned at (408) 446-8693.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael J. Ritter", written over the typed name.

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